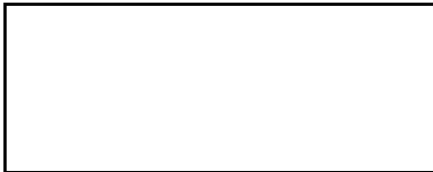


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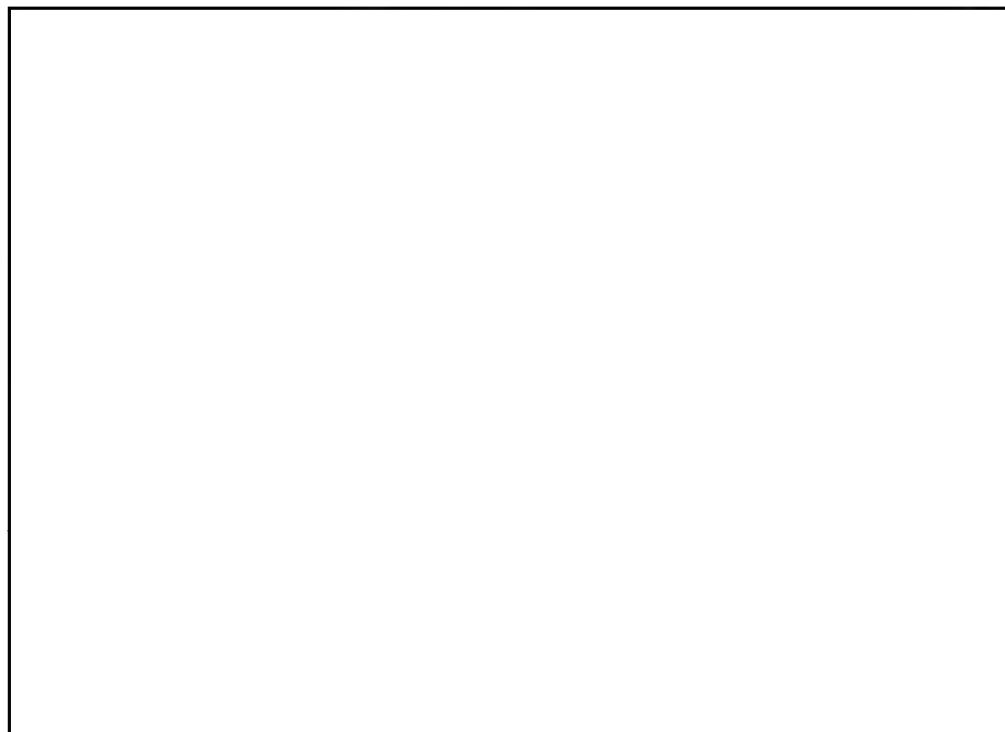
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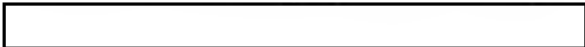
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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION

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2. USSR ANNOUNCES NEW ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY FOR NONMILITARY USES

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The creation of a Chief Directorate for the Use of Atomic Energy puts the Soviet program to exploit atomic energy for peaceful purposes on a plane more nearly equal to that of the program for nuclear weapons production



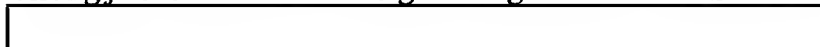
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The new chief directorate, which is attached to the Council of Ministers of the USSR, is charged, among other duties, with administering the Soviet foreign "atoms for peace" program. Under this program, the USSR has already concluded agreements for nuclear assistance with Communist China, the European Satellites, Yugoslavia and Egypt. Moscow has also made overtures to India, Pakistan and Norway.

The impetus for creation of the new organization may have arisen from a need to co-ordinate the increasing number of competing military and civilian demands made on the Soviet supply of fissionable material. The chief directorate may also resolve at the highest administrative levels the problems arising from the extension of atomic energy activities into a growing number of Soviet ministries.

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3. ICELANDIC POLITICIANS SEEN "CONFUSED" ON NATO
BASE PROBLEM

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Danish deputy foreign minister Christiansen, who has just returned from a visit to Reykjavik, reports that he found a wide range of views among Progressive and Social Democratic politicians regarding the Keflavik air base. All expressed a desire to maintain strong NATO affiliations, but revealed divergent views on the question of the Soviet threat and the problem of maintaining an air base without troops.

Christiansen stated that "influential" people in Iceland want to defer action until after the June parliamentary election, when prospects for a moderate settlement might be better. Icelandic foreign minister Gudmundsson is reported to have told a Danish editor that any action is unlikely before a year and a half, and that then the situation might be radically changed.

Comment

There is still a danger that the pressures of the election campaign and widespread chauvinism may force the government to take some steps toward revision of the defense agreement with the United States even before the June elections.

The Icelandic foreign minister is attending the semiannual meeting of Scandinavian foreign ministers in Copenhagen, where he intends to discuss the question of the base with his Norwegian and Danish counterparts. They can be expected to discourage him from any drastic action.

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4. DAUD SUGGESTS US AND USSR SHARE WORK ON KABUL AIRPORT

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[REDACTED] Afghan prime minister Daud promised on 17 April that he would personally see to implementation of an American offer to develop Afghanistan's aviation. Daud told the American chargé in Kabul that the job of reconstructing the key Kabul airport had been committed "in principle" to the Soviet Union, but offered to let the US share in its construction.

The prime minister added that he has always preferred American aid and friendship and that he would welcome US projects even in northern Afghanistan because there must be "no zones of influence" within the country.

Daud gave every indication that he considers Soviet assistance to be politically harmless.

Comment

Daud probably will encourage unrestricted competition between the Soviet bloc and the United States in the belief that expanded ties with both sides will ensure Afghanistan's independence as well as its economic development.

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 19 April)

Egypt and Israel agreed to enforce a cease-fire on their borders, effective at 6 p.m. on 18 April, according to an announcement by UN secretary general Hammar-skjold. The agreement includes a prohibition on shooting or movement across the demarcation line by regular or irregular forces. While serious and immediate causes of friction should be alleviated by this development, an atmosphere of watchful

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25X1A waiting prevails.

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The possibility of trouble on the Jordan border is raised by an Israeli charge that a water pipeline near the Jordan border was blown up in three places on 18 April, the second sabotage incident in this sector in three days. Meanwhile, Jordan claimed a member of the Home Guard was killed in a clash with an Israeli patrol inside

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25X1A Jordan.

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Tel Aviv, despite the release of a small number of individuals from active duty, units called up during last week's crisis have not been demobilized. Roadblocks and patrols remain in effect.

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The immediate public reaction in Israel to the Soviet announcement of readiness to assist in efforts toward an Arab-Israeli peace was mixed, according to the American embassy in Tel Aviv. While there was some guarded hope that the development represented a break in recent Soviet support of the Arabs, and favored prospects for peace, most comment favored reservation of judgment pending concrete evidence of Soviet good faith.

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The Egyptian press hailed the Soviet statement as further isolating British policy in the Near East and

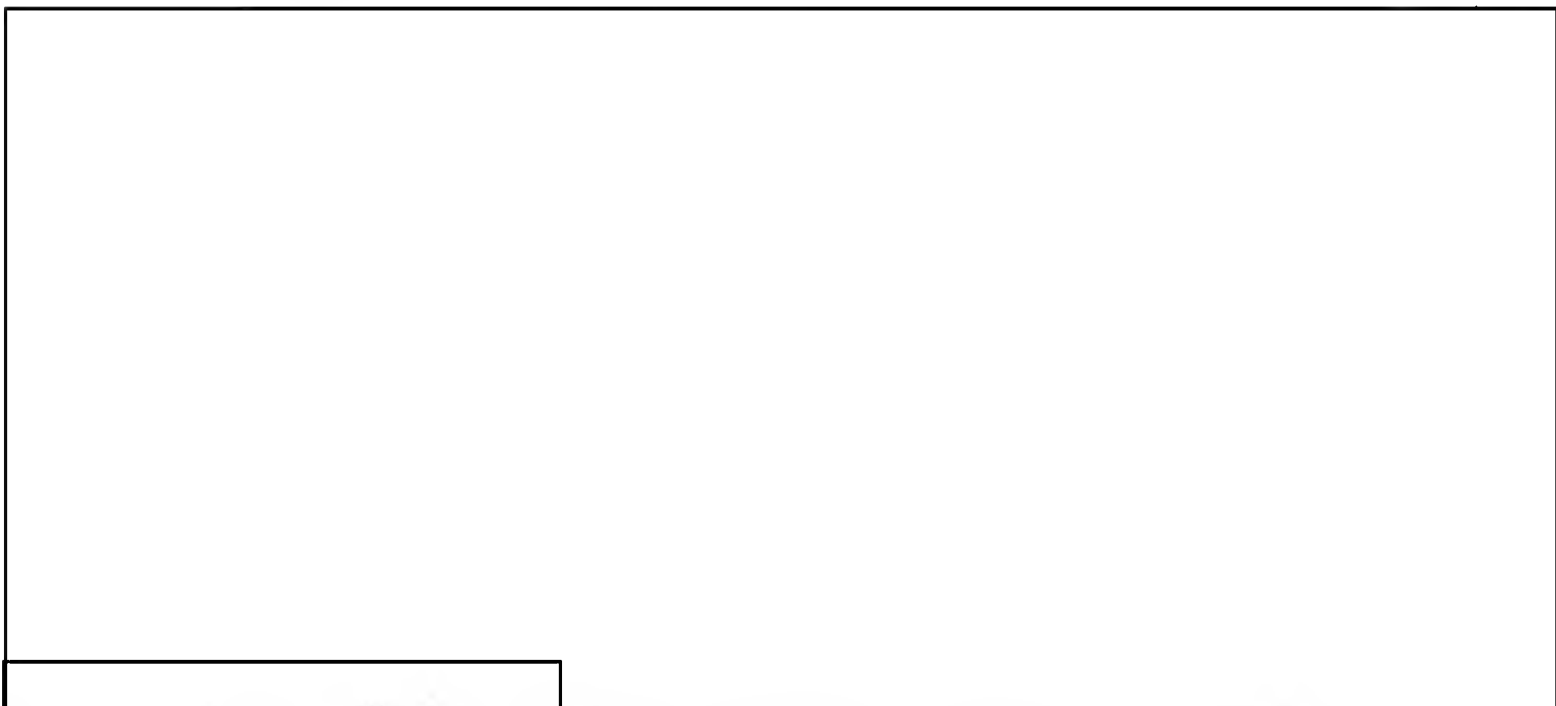
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countering prospects for unilateral Western intervention in the Near East crisis. The reaction among Palestine Arab refugees, however, was unfavorable. Refugee leaders in Lebanon characterized the statement as a "stab in the back" and accused the USSR of deceit. Members of the Lebanese parliamentary foreign affairs committee also expressed dissatisfaction with the statement since it recognized the existence of Israel. The Syrian minister of defense also criticized the statement, commenting that the great powers should realize that the Palestine question is the concern of the Arabs alone.

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Aviv, all 12 of the Mystere IV jet fighters from France now appear to have arrived in Israel.

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